

**Senate Bill 1041 Implementation
CalWORKs County Review Session Summary**

Mariposa

May 10, 2016

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Welfare to Work Division
Todd R. Bland, Deputy Director**

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Introduction

Purpose of County Review Session

The purpose of the County Review Session is to obtain information regarding the county's ongoing progress in implementing program changes enacted by Senate Bill (SB) 1041 (Chapter 47, Statutes of 2012) and Assembly Bill (AB) 74 (Chapter 21, Statutes of 2013).

Scope of County Review Session

Specifically, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will determine the status of SB 1041 program and AB 74 implementation, including but not limited to:

- Welfare-To-Work (WTW) participation requirements;
- Post WTW 24-Month Time Clock services;
- Training methods provided to staff in order to implement SB 1041 changes;
- Data outcomes related to SB 1041 program changes;
- Family Stabilization (FS) Program;
- Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) Program; and
- Implementation of Online CalWORKs Appraisal Tool (OCAT).

Goals of the County Review Session

The CDSS' goals of the Review Session are to ensure that SB 1041 and AB 74 were implemented correctly by each County Welfare Department (CWD), to gather and share promising practices amongst all CWDs throughout the state and to determine whether systematic or program issues relating to California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and the WTW program exist throughout the state. If any issues exist, they will be addressed by the CalWORKs Program Oversight Workgroup.

County Review Session General Information

A County Review Session was performed via teleconference call on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. The County Review Session team included five staff from the CDSS, WTW Division, CalWORKs Employment and Eligibility Branch, along with Mariposa County's Deputy Director of Employment and Community Services. The County Review Session consisted of a kick-off discussion, deputy director interview, and a final close-out.

Mariposa County's Human Services Department (MCHSD) provides services at one main office. The MCHSD is composed of several social service divisions including, but not limited to:

- CalWORKs/CalFresh/Medi-Cal;
- In-Home Support Services;
- Child Protective Services;
- Public Health;
- Family Medical Clinic; and
- Employment Career Center.

Additionally, client referrals are made to agencies providing support in behavioral health, mental health, and domestic abuse assistance as necessary.

During the County Review Session, Mariposa County indicated that their intake unit has recently gone to a “same day service” model, so that clients are interviewed the same day they apply for cash aid. Mariposa County makes it a priority to see clients when they come in for services, whether they have an appointment or not. Mariposa County feels that if their clients make the effort to come in to their office they are going to make time to see them.

Demographic Area and Economy

Mariposa County is located in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in the center of California. Yosemite National Park is located in Mariposa County, and with nearly four million people visiting the park each year, Yosemite is a critical part of the county’s economy. Based on the Mariposa County Economic & Demographic Profile of 2009-2010, Mariposa County’s population consists of approximately 18,251 residents and only approximately 5,400 wage and salary jobs. Mariposa County’s principal employment sectors are its leisure services industry, private industry, the construction industry, and government jobs. Yosemite National Park comprises the majority of the employment opportunities for local citizens. Mariposa County is considered a “bedroom community” as many of its residents commute outside the county for employment.

Implementation Strategies

Mariposa County’s implementation strategy for SB 1041 consisted of analyzing the All County Letters (ACLs) as they were issued by the CDSS, attending regional meetings to discuss changes and implementation strategies and training staff by providing direction and guidance for implementation. SB 1041 implementation was introduced to staff early in 2013. Mariposa County Staff also attended the CalWORKs Welfare to Work Academy in December 2015 to obtain additional training on SB1041 implementation strategies.

County staff sent out the appropriate noticing, scheduled appointments, and documented changes and client updates through its consortium (C-IV) system. Additionally, telephone calls and follow-up calls were also noted in the C-IV system.

Mariposa’s Key Successes include:

Mariposa County prides itself in its strong sense of community, resulting in an active Subsidized Employment program, low sanction rates, and close working relationships with CalWORKs clients throughout the county. Mariposa’s WTW Program has contracted with community partners to provide a wide array of job skills training. Depending on skills assessment results, applicants may be eligible to receive training in computer and office technology, accounting, medical technology, marketing, construction, automotive services, and other areas.

Mariposa County has a Vehicle Repair/Payback program to help its clients deal with transportation issues. Mariposa County is willing to pay for car repairs, vehicle registration, tires and alignment, replacement parts, and automobile towing. There are written guidelines for clients to follow.

Mariposa County offers a Certified Nursing Assistant certificate program through the local John C. Fremont Hospital. Because there are no colleges in Mariposa County, clients are attending in nearby Merced Junior College (Merced County) or Columbia College (Tuolumne County).

Mariposa County has its own job opening website, [Mariposa Works!!](#), which is a service that lists employment opportunities in Mariposa County and also nearby counties. On the [Mariposa Works!!](#) website there is also a Community Jobs tab listing local employment opportunities.

Mariposa County has fostered strong collaborative relationships with local agencies and organizations including Mother Lode Job Connection One-Stop Career Center, Mountain Crisis Services Domestic Violence Group, and Mariposa Heritage House for drug and alcohol support. Staff meets regularly with these groups in order to best strategize local resources and tackle its unique regional challenges, including limited local education and job opportunities that exist in this remote county.

Habitat for Humanity of Mariposa County has received a Capacity Building Coaching Grant from Habitat International for 2016. Only 14 affiliates throughout the nation were awarded this grant which is specifically for small, rural affiliates. The program is a federal grant authorized by Section 4 of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Demonstration Act of 1993. Federal funds from the program enable community development corporations and community housing development organizations to hire additional staff members who will expand their efforts to provide affordable housing for low-income families.

Mariposa County boasts a higher than average high school graduation rate. Local educational involvement produces results including the recent Yosemite Law Day 2016 Essay Contest where Mariposa County had the top three winners.

Challenges

Mariposa County's biggest challenge is transportation services due to the geographic layout of the county, especially for clients who reside on the northeast side. Local routes within the surrounding area and to and from Yosemite National Park do exist. In order to utilize the county transit service, residents must schedule a ride in advance through the main Transit Office.

Child care is also a challenge in Mariposa County. They feel that while their Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)/CalWORKs participating clients have subsidized transportation to get back and forth to college, transportation is not conveniently available for their children, to and from day care.

Additionally, Mariposa County feels the mismatch between allowable CalWORKs exemptions and TANF Federal exemptions is a barrier to their Work Participation Rate (WPR) improving. They feel the CalWORKs Young Child Exemption hinders their county's WPR rate.

Key Recommendations:

The CDSS recommends that Mariposa County continue to explore transportation alternatives to assist clients in remote areas of the county where access to services is limited and to continue

working with Yosemite Area Regional Transit System (YARTS) regarding additional and flexible bus schedules. The CDSS suggests the county continue to develop and strengthen its WPR efforts to engage clients in work available in the local labor market to increase the county's WPR. Mariposa County should continue to collect and monitor data submitted through its C-IV system to the CDSS for the monthly CalWORKs Cash Grant Caseload Movement Reports (CA 237 CW), and CalWORKs WTW Monthly Activity Reports for All (Other) Families and Two Parent Families (WTW 25/25A) for accuracy. The CDSS recommends the county continue to strengthen the relationship with its neighbor, Merced County, for training and other partnering endeavors. Finally, the CDSS encourages Mariposa County to take advantage of the FS program and funding to assist with more intensive case management and barrier removal for families.

Acknowledgements

The CDSS thanks the MCHSD for participating in the county review session teleconference call. The CDSS appreciates the open collaboration with CWD staff to ensure the continued success of the CalWORKs program.

Background and Data

Mariposa County at-a-glance

Total Caseload.....	214
<small>(Source: CalWORKs Cash Grant Caseload Movement Report CA 237 CW line Item 8a-January 2016)</small>	
WTW Enrollees.....	66
<small>(Source: CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work Monthly Activity Report WTW 25/25A Line item 1-January 2016)</small>	
Mandatory Participants (enrollees + sanctioned + non-compliance).....	72
<small>(Source: CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work Monthly Activity Report WTW 25/25A Line Items 1, 3A and 31-January 2016)</small>	
Reengagement Plan Received.....	Yes
Beginning Date of Reengagement.....	January 8, 2013
Consortium System.....	C-IV

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